Human Relations News from the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY — LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

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Commission Receives New Appointee

On April 13 Miss Marie E. Radel was sworn in to the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. She was appointed to a 3 year term by Mayor Leo P. Carlin to replace Jerry Leopaldi, the Commission Vice Chairman.

Miss Radel, who has been employed by the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company as a long distance operator since January 11, 1943, is secretary-treasurer of the Communications Workers of America AFL-CIO, Local 1006 in Newark. She is also President of the Essex-West Hudson Chapter of the N. J. CIO Women's League and a trustee for the Guild of St. Joseph The Worker.

Miss Radel will serve as one of 13 commissioners serving the community as a volunteer in the area of religious, national and racial relations.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SET PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL LIVING DAY, MAY 28-29

Over 100 foreign persons, 35 per cent of them students, will participate in the Essex County Project in International Living next month, Mrs. Tina E. Bohannon, general chairman, has announced.

According to Mrs. Bohannon, the guests will stay with private families throughout the county during the two-day project on May 28 and 29.

The project is being sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in cooperation with churches, other Greek letter organizations and agencies in the county, to benefit the Urban League of Essex County.

"This project which has the support of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, will be conducted for the purpose of enabling our citizens to meet some of our world neighbors to learn something about their way of life," said Mrs. Bohannon.

"We should like to open the doors of our homes to these visitors from other lands so that our citizens may have first-hand experience in helping to develop and promote world understanding," she added.

Guests will arrive here at noon on May 28 and be carried to the homes of their respective hosts. During the afternoon a special tour of the college campus has been arranged. A reception for visitors will be held at Seton Hall University. Speakers will include representatives of the U. S. State Department and Mayor Leo P. Carlin, City of Newark.

Saturday evening will be devoted to arrangements made by the hosts and hostesses.

A number of churches and synagogues will provide special programs for the visitors on Sunday. They include:

St. James AME Church, the Rev. Eustace Blake, pastor; Third Presbyterian Church, the Rev. J. S. Lonsinger, pastor; Union Baptist Church of Montclair, the Rev. D. C. Rice, pastor; Temple B'nai Israel of S. Orange, with Rabbi Herbert Weiner, and Temple B'nai Abraham, with Rabbi Joachim Prinz and Dr. Andre Ungar.

Tickets for the Sunday afternoon reception, to be held at the Terrace Ballroom, may be purchased at the Urban League of Essex County, 58 Jones Street, Newark.

Reprinted from The New Jersey Afro-American, April 16, 1960

Members of the committee, planning the International Living Project, at work in the office of Sidney Reitman. Seated, left to right, are Mrs. Tina Bohannan, Sidney Reitman and Dr. Myra Smith Kerse. Standing, left to right; Rev. Claude Kilgore, Rev. J. L. Lonsinger, James Pawley and Daniel Anthony.

A Report on the 1960 Summer Human Relations Workshops

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations is accepting applications for the annual summer human relations workshops held at Rutgers University, New Jersey and the Encampment for Citizenship at Riverdale, New York and Berkeley, California. The Rutgers workshops are sponsored by the University School of Education in cooperation with the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Division Against Discrimination. The Encampment for Citizenship is sponsored by the American Ethical Union. A brief description of each workshop follows.

Modern Trends in Intergroup Relations

Held on the Rutgers campus during the week of July 24 - July 30, this workshop is designed for those who have had previous workshop experience or training in intergroup relations in the community. Each year the organization and content of this workshop differs in order to maintain an experimental approach. This year the Workshop will concentrate on changing communities as they relate to and affect intergroup relations. At this workshop the problems and issues will be analyzed so that each member working in a team with others of similar interest can seek creative solutions which will aid in his "back-home" situation.

Community Leadership in Intergroup Relations

Held on the Rutgers University campus from July 17 through July 23, this workshop is for persons who wish to improve their understanding of the problems confronting them in the area of intergroup relations and to learn up-to-date techniques useful to their solutions. Participants are selected to create a heterogeneous population with respect to race, religion, occupation, ethnic and geographic background. The staff and consultants consist of persons who have extensive professional knowledge and practical experience in intergroup relations leadership training.

Human Relations in Professional Education

Held at Rutgers, July 6 - July 23, this workshop is especially designed for individuals whose professional duties, responsibilities, and problems require an appreciation and understanding of human relationships, as well as skills in applying insights so derived to actual problems in the field of education.

Each participant will concentrate on a problem of primary concern to himself professionally. Emphasis will be given to methods and techniques for dealing with intergroup and interpersonal tensions as they occur in schools and related situations. The resources of the Workshop will enable each participant to complete a project of deep concern to him and to acquire skills needed for handling these problems more effectively and more confidently in his future life.

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Mayor Carlin becomes the first contributor to the 1960 Mental Health Campaign. He gives his contribution to members of the Leaguers, Inc., a youth organization cooperating in the Mental Health Drive of Newark. Left to right are: Mrs. James Horton, council president of the Leaguers Parents' Group and her daughter, Jacqueline; Mayor Carlin; Sheryl Foster and mother, Mrs. George Foster, chairman of the Sub-Deb Group.

Executive Director Appointed Mental Health Drive Chairman

In accepting the chairmanship of Newark's Mental Health Campaign, Dan Anthony, director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations called for a greater understanding of the part personal emotional problems play in disturbed community relations.

He said, "Healthy mental attitudes make for good neighborhood feelings. Sick people make sick communities. Today the world is facing the greatest crisis of civilization: *Can human beings learn to live together in peace and happiness or would they rather pull the nuclear trigger because they don't like the other nation or the other fellow's way of life?*

"The question is simple: Can we learn to like the other guy just a little bit, or do we have to keep on avoiding every person who isn't the same color or religion we are?"

"Every doctor and psychologist knows that most of our illness is emotional in origin. We get sick because we are unhappy. We are unhappy because we are frustrated and fearful. Then we get disturbed because people don't appreciate us and therefore we can't truly understand them. It is a vicious circle which ends up in a disturbed society in which half our hospital beds are occupied by mentally sick patients."

"I have taken on this campaign for Mental Health in Newark because I sincerely believe that individual health depends upon good human relations; and decent group relations in a New Newark means better personal health and satisfaction for all of us".

The fund raising campaign during the month of May will be highlighted by a door-to-door "bell-ringer" drive on the night of May 17th. *Help a lost soul find his way!*

Commission Enters Southern Lunch Counter Controversy

At its regular monthly meeting on April 20, 1960 the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations discussed, at great length, the situation of the sit-in demonstrations and controversy surrounding the patterns of segregation as practiced in the southern branches of some 5 & 10 and variety stores.

The discussion centered on the implications and effect of the demonstrations and the Commission's concern with the problem. Since the F. W. Woolworth Company, one of those involved in this controversy, has a number of stores in Newark and vicinity it was decided that a letter be written to its President expressing the concern and interest of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations in this problem. Such a letter, dated April 22, 1960, was sent to the Woolworth Company. It read in part:

"Our concern is based on two premises, first, the fact that we are a governmental agency charged with the responsibility of making the City of Newark a place where all people can live in peace, harmony and dignity with equal opportunity for everyone regardless of race, color, creed or national origin. The scope of our interest extends beyond our geographic limitations to whatever issues and situations affect all people in our country."

"Secondly, the local stores of the Woolworth Company have had an excellent reputation for prompt, efficient and courteous service for everyone in all their departments. This is, more likely, the case with all Woolworth stores in the metropolitan area. We therefore feel that the example and experiences of these stores might serve as a model for those stores which are having some difficulty because of their patterns of segregation."

"The Commission realizes that local customs and tradition play an important part in the perpetuation of these patterns. Over the years this has been the case in many other areas of life, but rigid segregation has been broken, despite these traditions, through law and in many instances, voluntary action."

"We are not proposing any course of action for you and your fellow officers to take for we understand the enormity and peculiar conditions of this particular problem. The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations does hope that the good influence of your office will be brought to bear on this situation to resolve this problem in the very near future. We trust then that the excellent standards of treatment which all citizens of Newark enjoy will soon be in practice in the southern stores of the Woolworth Company."

A reply from the Vice President of the Company was received on April 27. It described the Commission letter as "fairminded" and went on to say that the company "adheres to all local customs established by the local people for the conduct of business in their community". It further stated that Woolworth stores have cooperated with local people in any serious endeavor to improve the business, cultural climate and race relations of the community. Such cases as San Antonio, Dallas and Galveston, Texas were mentioned. It concluded with a statement that, "Woolworth, by itself, cannot bring about such a drastic change in the social concepts that exist in the South."

It should also be noted that the Newark City Council adopted a resolution at its March 16 meeting, urging Woolworth to end segregation at its stores in the South.

1960 Summer Workshops

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Encampment for Citizenship

This is a six-week education program conducted at the Fieldston School in Riverdale, New York, June 26 to August 6, 1960 and at Berkeley, California, June 19 to July 30, 1960. The Encampment is designed for young adults, 18 to 23 years of age offering a once-in-a-lifetime experience in education for democratic citizenship, practical training in the know-how of leadership techniques, a chance to make friends with alert young people from around the world, as well as from every section of the USA and an opportunity to learn to think independently.

Some scholarship aid for all of these workshops is available through the Mayor's Commission. Applications and inquiries should be made as soon as possible by contacting the Commission office, Room 214, City Hall, MI 3-6300, Ext. 281.

Selected Reading

Vose, Clement E. **Caucasians Only.** The Supreme Court, the NAACP and the Restrictive Covenant cases, 1959. University of California.

"Supreme Court rulings that restrictive covenants are not enforceable provides subject of this book. Description of sociological and political events leading to decisions and appraisal of practical results."

Walter D. Chambers, Assistant Director and Dan Anthony, Executive Director, congratulate Marie Radel on her appointment to the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

Clinton Hill Neighborhood Conference Set for May 15

The fifth annual neighborhood conference of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 15 at Clinton Place Junior High School. Beginning at 2:30 p.m., residents throughout the neighborhood will gather to discuss common community problems and attempt to find solutions for them. Mr. William Payne, chairman of the housing committee's sub-committee on Housing Violations, will be conference chairman.

Keynote speaker for the meeting, a nationally known expert on housing and urban renewal, is Roland M. Sawyer of Pittsburgh. Mr. Sawyer, housing consultant for the United Steelworkers of America, will help carry forward the year's theme of "Citizen Participation in Neighborhood Improvement" with its special emphasis placed on housing problems.

Citizen's role in improving municipal enforcement of existing codes, new legislation, speeding up the progress of the impending conservation and rehabilitation program in the 14 block area in Central Clinton Hill as well as new middle income housing, will be high on the agenda for consideration by the conference participants. Other panel discussion groups will consider how residents can press the fight for decent schools in this area, better health and sanitation conditions, and an expansion of recreational facilities. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to discuss general neighborhood problems.

Questionnaires indicating individual preference of topics to be discussed are being distributed throughout the neighborhood.

A conference committee, under the direction of Louis Pitts, conference coordinator, has been formed to plan and make arrangements for the conference.

Culture and Human Relations

by Mrs. Irving Shapiro,
Publicity Chairman, Newark Choral Society

It's not all a flight to the suburbs. Every Monday night, 31 Green Street, the Newark Board of Education Building, is visited by a number of suburbanites, all returning to Newark for the cultural opportunity of singing with the Newark Choral Society.

The Newark Choral Society, sponsored by the Newark Board of Education and supported by a host of prominent Newark citizens, including Mayor Leo P. Carlin, is directed by Miss Dorothy Schneider, its founder, a proud Newarker who teaches vocal music at South Side High School.

Through a common love for fine music this veritable United Nations of singers meet once a week throughout the entire year, many members having done so for the past seventeen years. Friendships, springing up in the rehearsal room because of a common interest, continue to flourish in the singers' living rooms and the chorus presents to all who come to hear it a wonderful object lesson of cooperation and sincere affection between people of different religions and races.

In line with the desire of the chorus to add as much as possible to the cultural life of Newark it hopes to present two free concerts a year to the public. With its growing list of supporters there is every likelihood that this will be possible.

The Newark Choral Society will present its 17th Annual Concert May 22, at 4 p.m. at the Clinton Place Junior High School. It will feature J. S. Bach's "Magnificat" and Folk Songs arranged by Benjamin Britten as well as other smaller Choral works. Admission will be free.

MINORITY HOUSING AND CRIME CONCEPTS HIT

Two tenaciously held conceptions that contribute much to racial tension have been attacked in two widely circulated reports.

The first notion, that Negroes depress property values when they move into new areas, has been challenged by a study of 10,000 real estate transactions in seven U. S. cities, and a book on "Privately Developed Interracial Housing."

The second notion, that Negroes have greater criminal propensities than other groups is contested in an article by Dennis Clark of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations in the Catholic monthly, *Community*.

The real estate study was conducted by Dr. Luigi Laurenti, for the Commission on Race and Housing. Property sales in San Francisco, Oakland, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Missouri and Portland, Oregon were examined over a nine-year span. *It showed that property values rose in 44 per cent of the cases; did not change in 41 per cent, and showed a decline in 15 per cent.*

The book, by Eunice and George Grier examined 50 private housing developments where interracial occupancy obtained from the beginning. Some of these helped raise the standards of housing in the areas where they were constructed. Both the book and Dr. Laurenti's study were published by the University of California Press.

Author Clark labels as "the big lie," the allegation that "there is something special about Negroes as a race that leads them to engage in wholesale crime." Three things lead to acceptance of "the big lie," he says:

1. The traditional idea of Negroes that leaves no room for making distinctions among them.
2. An ignorance of the facts of crime and its relation to the general population.
3. Crude bigotry that is unwilling to see anything good connected with Negroes.

Crime is segregated, according to Clark, and the really big syndicates are over-whelmingly white. His article has been reprinted and distributed by the Philadelphia Commission.

(Reprinted from Human Relations News of Chicago)

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

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